

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Servants and Slaves

Within the hearts of the disciples of Jesus was the desire to be great, but not great in the way that God defines greatness. They wanted to be great in the way that the world defines greatness. They wanted to be in charge. To run the show. To have the authority. To be the boss. They often fought about who was the greatest among them.

In Matthew 20:26, Jesus responded to them in their wrong way of thinking by saying,

²⁶ *...whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant;*

Jesus was explaining to them that they were completely wrong in their thinking. Not a little bit wrong. Completely wrong.

The world defines personal greatness in many ways, but none of those definitions include basic acts of service. Yet Jesus teaches us that the baseline, the starting point, for personal greatness is doing basic acts of service for others.

And what a great test of faith this teaching is. How so? For one, nobody who doesn't believe that basic service is the starting point of greatness is going to do it. For another, if you do believe Jesus and commit to living a life defined by acts of basic service to others, the world isn't going to view you as great and you have to be okay with that.

Basically, in order to be great in the eyes of God, you have to forfeit being great in the eyes of the world. Are you okay with that? If your faith is a real one, you won't care at all. You will be caught up in what honors God most, not yourself, and what brings Him the most glory, not yourself.

That's how to be great. And this should be a great encouragement to us! Why? Because we all have it within our power to be great. There are no special abilities required. No talent or training required. Here's what to do: See a need, do what is required to meet the need.

Train yourself not to think about it, simply to do it, lest you become full of pride for your service and forfeit your blessing. Train yourself to do what needs to be done, think nothing of it, and repeat, all the while praising God for bringing the opportunity to your attention and giving you the opportunity and ability to do it. Don't try to hide it, but don't deliberately show it off.

But then Jesus takes it a step farther and in Matthew 20:27 says,

²⁷ *and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave...*

Greatness is evaluated by God based upon your basic acts of service for others, but Jesus answers the question his disciples were all really wanting
(continued)

to know: How does a person become first in the kingdom? They weren't interested in second place. To them, it was about being on top.

Jesus told them the truth. The one who becomes the greatest servant of all is first. The person who sacrifices the most for others. The one who becomes a servant to the point of being a slave. No concern for self. A complete abandonment of identity. Committed to service no matter the price.

And whoever did such a thing? None more so than Jesus himself. Paul's commentary on this great teaching of Jesus can be found in Philippians 2:3-11, which says:

³ *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;* ⁴ *do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.* ⁵ *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,* ⁷ *but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.* ⁸ *Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* ⁹ *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,* ¹⁰ *so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹ *and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Why is Jesus exalted above all else? He was God, with all the rights and privileges and power that belongs to God, yet became a slave. How did Jesus become a slave? By giving up His personal rights and willingly, obediently obeying the command of God to suffer and die on the cross.

And because He gave up the most and made himself the least, God made Him and His name the greatest name above every other name.

I don't know about you, but the example of service that Jesus set inspires me to serve more, to sacrifice more and to die more to myself and live for Him. He set the standard of greatness. If we are His followers, we will, by the very definition, follow.

Much Love!

Wes LeFlore (918) 607-8489 or huskerwes1@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

May

May 02—Helen Norris

May 16—Linda Wartick

May 30—Darlene Cooney

May 09—Lynette Turney

May 23—Kaylee Jenkins

PRAYER LIST: Marvin Kline, Adda Gatson, Joe Brown, Connie Morris, Russell Day, Kendall Brundage, Shirley Stoner, Melinda Miller, Hailee Moyer

WEDDING SHOWER FOR RAEANN HINES

There is a wedding shower for Raeann Hines on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. If you want to participate in a group gift, give your money to Brianna Bocanegra or Emily Pierce.

PAINTING PARTY!

We need painters to help us spruce up the Children's Bible classrooms. If you are interested please see Wes or Kendall, or just show up ready to go on Sunday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m. We will feed you pizza for dinner!

SILVER MAPLE CAMP COUPON CODES

We are excited to announce that Silver Maple Camp has opened registration for the summer 2021 sessions.

1st session: July 11-17 Junior session lead by Steve Sears for children ages 9 thru 13.

2nd session: July 18-24 Senior session lead by Matt Carden for teenagers ages 13 thru 18.

3rd session: July 25-31 Youth session lead by John Dunham for children ages 9 thru 18.

***Camper registration is \$210 and your portion is \$105.00. But if you register before June 6th, you can receive a \$25 discount, and your portion will be \$92.50. See Jennifer for your 1/2 price camp codes. **Spots are currently limited**, so register today at www.silvermaplecamp.com.

Please visit <https://silvermaplecamp.com/covid19> for more information on our COVID-19 policy.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Sierra Bales—5th

Easton Newberry—7th

Randy Albin—16th

Wrigley Jenkins—27th

Whitney Newbery—31st

Jaden Hines—6th

Draecon Lee—9th

John Wartick—19th

Michael Robinson—30th

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

David Carroll—4th

Wade Pierce—8th

James Moore—12th

Starla Turner—18th

Judy Lewis—23rd

Kaitlin Francisco—27th

Piper Dodds—5th

Ethan Shields—9th

Sawyer Richmond—13th

Natalie Colwell—19th

David Pierce—24th

Bob Brownlee—30th

It's not so much what we have in this life that matters

It's what we do with what we have.

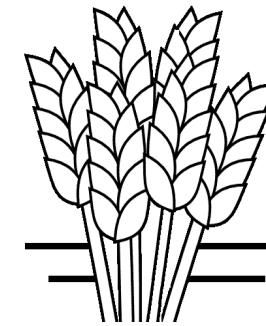
—Mr. Rogers

The Advanced Lessons, Part 14: Kingdom Promotion
Matthew 20:24-28

Notes:

MASKS & COVID-19: We are no longer requesting that all adults wear masks in services. The Elders have considered the lower rates of Covid-19 infections locally, and the availability of the Covid vaccines for all ages. With these factors in mind, the decision of wearing a mask will now be left to each individual. Anyone is welcome to wear a mask for personal protection or to protect others as you see fit. We will still continue some precautions related to social distancing in our worship services. As requested previously, if you have a cough or are feeling ill, please do not attend services in person. We will continue to have recorded lessons available online.

THOSE WHO SERVE			
SUNDAY A.M.	02-May 2021	09-May 2021	16-May 2021
Elder in Charge	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
Opening Prayer	B. Turney	K. Dodds	N. Bradbury
Song Leader	A. Shields	A. Shields	A. Shields
Communion Prayer	E. Newberry	T. Norris	R. Harris
Contribution Prayer & Collection	M. Neal P. Dodds	M. Neal P. Dodds	M. Neal P. Dodds
Ushers	A. Hines L. Helton	A. Hines L. Helton	A. Hines L. Helton
Closing Prayer	R. Harris	R. Harris	R. Harris
Deacon in Charge	D. Pierce	D. Pierce	D. Pierce
SUNDAY A.M.	23-May 2021	30-May 2021	30-May 2021
Elder in Charge	R. Harris	R. Harris	M. Kline
Opening Prayer	D. Pierce	T. Norris	
Song Leader	A. Shields	A. Shields	
Communion Prayer	M. Kline	E. Newberry	T. Norris
Contribution Prayer & Collection	M. Neal P. Dodds	M. Neal P. Dodds	
Ushers	A. Hines L. Helton	A. Hines L. Helton	
Closing Prayer	R. Harris	R. Harris	M. Kline
Deacon in Charge	D. Pierce	D. Pierce	A. Shields



*“Reaching Inward, Outward
 Upward, Downward”*

Wellington Church of Christ

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 2, 2021

Call to Worship

Song #555 “Seek Ye First”

Song #144 “O Worship the King”

Prayer

Song #318 “O Sacred Head”

Communion Prayers

Contribution Prayer

Contribution Collection

Lesson

Song #916 “What a Day That Will Be”

Closing Prayer

ELDERS

Rex Harris
 Ed Newberry

Marvin Kline
 Tom Norris

DEACONS

Kevin Dodds
 Leroy Lewis
 David Pierce

Aaron Hines
 Mike Neal
 Alan Shields

MINISTER

Wes LeFlore